

**METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR INDEXING DATA IN A DATABASE AND  
FOR RETRIEVING DATA FROM A DATABASE IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
QUERIES USING EXAMPLE SETS**

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

5           A computer-based technique is provided for retrieving one or more items from a  
database in response to a query specified by a user via one or more example sets.  
Preferably the example sets include multiple positive and negative example sets. The  
method comprises the following steps. First, a scoring function is constructed from the  
one or more example sets. The scoring function gives higher scores to database items  
10       that are more closely related to the query than to database items that are not as closely  
related to the query. The scoring function is operable for use with a multidimensional  
indexing structure associated with the database. Then, the one or more database items  
that have the highest score as computed using the scoring function are retrieved via the  
multidimensional indexing structure.

15  
1500-177.APP